



Beaver Dam Youth Baseball and Softball (BDYBS)

COVID-19 Proposed Safety Guidelines

On May 17, 2020, the BDYBS board met to discuss safety requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the return to baseball and softball play for the 2020 summer season. During the meeting, no final decision was made regarding any level of play for the 2020 season. The BDYBS board recognizes that to return to practice and play of organized baseball and softball, the safety of the players, coaches, fans and community will continue to be a priority as it has been in the past. Specific to COVID-19, the board discussed and approved the following guidelines which would be immediately implemented and remain in place during the 2020 summer season, subject to adjustment based on current public health information and guidelines:

Social Distancing: Parents and spectators will have separate seating away from the backstop or dugout. Spectators will not be allowed around the area of the backstop or dugouts. Only players, coaches, and the umpire(s) are allowed on the field of play. Spectators are only permitted to view the game from the outfield. This means the game may be viewed along the foul lines starting at 1st or 3rd base and extending to the outfield and in the outfield area. All spectators residing outside of the same home shall practice social distancing to include 6 feet of space between themselves and the next spectator, group or family.

Dugout (Team Personnel): The dugout will be extended from the dugout to the backstop for both teams. This is to allow rostered players and coaches to practice social distancing throughout the game while their team is up to bat. Bleachers are designated for players and coaches only. Hand sanitizing between innings is recommended. No more than three to five (3-5) individuals are permitted in the dugout at any given time (this is dependent on the size of the dugout). These individuals (players, coaches or any combination) must maintain all social distancing guidelines throughout the game. All other team personnel must practice social distancing in the extended area of the dugout, as referenced above.

Game Protocol: At the pregame meeting and throughout the game, coaches and umpires will not be allowed to shake hands or have any physical contact with each other. All parties must maintain social distancing guidelines.

No physical contact or touching is permitted. Players and coaches are asked to refrain from high fives or any other physical gestures of celebration. All team personnel must always maintain social distancing guidelines.

At the conclusion of the game, players will be asked to forego the sportsmanship line at the end of the game. Instead each team will line up on their respective foul line and “tip their cap” as a salute to the other team to promote sportsmanship.

Equipment: Refrain from sharing equipment in general. This includes but is not limited to bats, helmets, and catcher’s equipment. Players are highly encouraged to leave bat bags and any unnecessary equipment in a parent or guardian vehicle. All necessary equipment should be walked in to prevent cross contamination. Any equipment shared by players should have a sanitary spray approved by BDYBS applied to it prior to use by another player.

Each team needs to provide their own baseballs or softballs for when they are in the field. Each team is responsible for switching out their baseballs or softballs each inning or apply a BDYBS approved sanitary spray their baseballs or softballs between innings. Coaches are encouraged to communicate with spectators/fans/families to refrain from retrieving foul balls. Only a team representative from the fielding team shall retrieve foul balls, which shall have a sanitary spray or wipe applied before returning to the field of play.

The use of facemasks or other protective face covering are optional. Parents are encouraged to follow their own personal guidance with respect to face masks and coverings. Players, coaches, umpires or other game or practice participants will not be required to wear face masks however will be permitted to wear a face mask or other face covering at all times as requested by their individual parent or guardian. If face masks are worn, they should be placed in an appropriate place by the player when removed to avoid contact with others. At the conclusion of a game or practice, face masks shall be removed from the playing area and discarded at an alternative location.

Team Sanitary Representative: Each team shall appoint one coach, parent or other person to be the sanitary representative for that team. This individual will be required to complete a background check in compliance with Little League current standards prior to assuming these responsibilities. The sanitary representative for each team shall be present for team games and at a minimum, will be responsible for the following during each game:

- Prior to players entering the field of play or designated dugout areas, ensure a BDYBS approved sanitary spray has been applied to the dugout (physical and extended) seating areas. The same shall be applied to gear to include baseballs, bats, helmets etc. prior to use by players.
- After batting has completed and a team enters the field of play, apply a BDYBS approved sanitary spray to all bats, helmets and other equipment used during the

previous half inning. The same sanitary spray will be applied to all seating areas in the dugout after batting has been completed and their respective team is in the field.

- After their respective team has left the field to bat, ensure all baseballs used in the previous half inning while fielding are sprayed or wiped with a BDYBS sanitary spray or wipe.
- Assist coaches by ensuring proper social distancing between players at all times while in dugout areas and during game play.
- At the conclusion of a game, shall apply a BDYBS approved sanitary spray or wipe to all used baseballs, bats, helmets and other related equipment. The same shall be applied to all dugout seating areas prior to departing. Ensure all dugout areas are clean prior to departure.
- The Team Sanitary Representative is encouraged to attend team practices and implement the same safety procedures used during games. In the absence of a Sanitary Representative, the team coach(es) shall be responsible for complying with the same guidelines in a practice environment as established for game play.

Umpires: Umpires will officiate the game from behind the pitcher's mound, while practicing social distancing with all fielders. This will limit the number of people around home plate and will still allow the umpire to call the game and see the whole field.

Umpires shall not handle baseballs or softballs and should remind players to retrieve extra baseballs or softballs from their designated coach.

Food/Beverage/Hydration/Concessions: All players, coaches, and umpires will have personal water bottles that are kept in their individual designated area. Sunflowers seeds, gum or other food will not be allowed in any dugout, bleachers or field of play. A final decision regarding the availability of onsite concessions has not been made and will be discussed at a future time.

Restroom facilities: The use of public restroom facilities attached to the concession stand will be unavailable during games and practices until further notice. Other public restrooms provided by the City of Beaver Dam will be available at the discretion of the city.

Violation of Established Guidelines: BDYBS has established the above guidelines with the interest of the safety of all players, coaches, fans and the community in mind. Violation of any of the above guidelines places an increased danger on those the plan intends to protect. If a violation is observed by any coach or board member, the coach or board member shall immediately act to attempt to obtain voluntary compliance with the established guidelines. If there is a continued refusal by the violator to comply with required guidelines, the practice or game shall be immediately postponed.

Prepared by: Ryan Klavekoske – BDYBS Safety Officer in conjunction with the BDYBS Board of Directors – 05/17/2020

